

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE "SIXTIES"

—IN CHARITON COUNTY, MO.—

BY CAPTAIN LOUIS BENECKE
BRUNSWICK, MISSOURI.

From Keytesville I went with my company to McGee college, and from there to Macon City.

About the first part of November Col. D. P. Dyer came to me and informed me that his regiment, the 49th Missouri infantry volunteers, lacked one company to complete the organization, and desired my company to join his regiment. I submitted the question to my men and they agreed to abide by whatever I thought best to do in the premises.

As my men were nearly all mounted upon their individual horses, and we had special side arms, besides the government guns, I agreed to join the 49th Missouri after I had been given the assurance that we should remain mounted and remain stationed in Missouri.

About this time a "special" or "secret service man" came with proper credentials from General Rosecrans, and instructed me in all the secret work, signs and pass words of the "Knights of the Golden Circle," also the "Sons of Liberty," which proved of great service to me. He also ascertained, by being with bushwhackers in this county where their principal gathering places were, and, what proved of great value to me, where the confederate post-offices were kept, and who generally served as confederate mail messengers in this locality.

General Fisk concluded to send me to Chariton county, and placed me in command of that sub-district. I was aware of the many difficulties which had to be solved in Chariton county, as there was not only the bushwhackers, the confederate sympathizers, but also a lawless element clustering around the militia as refugees and camp followers. A reasonably fair description of the conditions as I found them in Chariton county in November, 1864, are described in an editorial published in the Missouri Republican which I preserved and of which the following is a complete copy:

BUSHWHACKING IN CHARITON—SIX UNION MEN KILLED.

[From Missouri Republican, Dec., 1864.]

We learn that on Christmas eve, the noted bushwhacker, Jim Jackson, and his men killed six men in Chariton county, a part of whom resided in Muscle Fork and the others on Bee Branch. Three of them, old man Lowe and son and a Mr. Jackson, were killed at home, and our informant supposed the others, whose names are not given, were also. The murdered men were all radical unionists. We are told that this Jackson and his band of fiends, roam almost at pleasure over the counties of Chariton, Howard and that region of country.

The above is copied from the Jefferson City Times, and furnishes an additional chapter in the wretched and bloody drama being enacted in the unfortunate county of Chariton. In this instance, as we are informed, the atrocities have been committed by a lawless band of bushwhackers, armed marauders, not recognized as soldiers by either of the parties to the calamitous civil war now desolating large tracts of our common country, and therefore properly denounced by all as enemies of mankind. It would be some relief in contemplating the frequent acts of murder and arson perpetrated in Chariton, in the past six or seven months, could the mind be satisfied that all the long list of outrage and crime enacted in that county was the work of these little less than demons. Unfortunately, that has not been the case.

The first instance of assassination—and all the killing done in Chariton county deserves the name of assassination—was the killing of Mr. Phillips, a union

man, by a bushwhacker. In this instance the killing was mutual, Mr. P. having fired his weapon simultaneously with his assailant, and both were killed. This affair occurred some time in May last.

Shortly after the killing of Mr. Phillips, the atrocious wretch, Truman, entered the county under pretended authority from Gen. Rosecrans, commanding the department of Missouri, and Gen. Fisk, then and since in command of the district in which Chariton county is included. He signaled the commencement of his atrocities by hanging Walker, Veal and Stark, and shooting Fox, Jennings and Brevier. None of these men had been convicted of committing any offense against the government, whilst Brevier was well known as a union-loving and law-abiding citizen. Truman, and the gang under him, stole large quantities of private property, including clothing, money and jewelry, all of which was taken without any legal warrant, and only a part of which was turned over to the federal authorities by Truman when arrested. This outlaw further signaled his atrocities in Chariton by burning the house of Mr. Anselm Johnson, a farmer residing a few miles from Keytesville, and destroying the valuable contents, except so much as was carried off by this band of plunderers. Truman, as our readers may remember, was tried by a military commission and sentenced to be hung, an end which he richly merited, and from which he was saved by General Rosecrans commuting his punishment to imprisonment during the war.

The outrages of Truman were followed by the killing of an equal number of men by bushwhackers, as was said, in retaliation for the murders committed by this outlaw. The victims of this lawless retaliation were peaceable Germans. Those killed were named Mamm, Coleman, Partenheimer, Stenstra and Charles Jensen. Another named Joseph Bittinger was shot in the head and left for dead, by his would-be assassin, but recovered from his injury, and is said to be still living.

Todd and his band of bushwhackers captured twenty-five men of the enrolled militia, stationed at Keytesville, some time in September. In violation of the pledge for their safety given before the surrender, Mr. Carmon, the sheriff, and Mr. Young, both union men, were taken a short distance from town and killed. Todd also burned the courthouse at Keytesville.

Shortly before the raid of General Price into Missouri, Mr. Stratton, a respectable citizen, 55 years old, was killed and his house and contents burned to the ground. Since the raid, Rev. Mr. Robinson and Mr. Brummell were killed by federal soldiers. Their offense consisted in the circumstances that they acknowledged they belonged to the southern Methodist conference. Mr. Abner Finnell, 60 years of age, Mr. Philpott, aged 75, and Mr. Moses Hurt, aged 60, Judge Flood, aged 60, and Mr. McAshen were all killed by soldiers the body of the latter having been thrown into the Missouri river after he was shot. Mr. Allen Farmer, aged 40 years, was shot and killed at his home, near Brunswick. Mr. Pixley, aged 55, was killed. Mr. Franklin, a young man, was shot and killed at Brunswick. Mr. W. R. Reading, a well-known union man, aged 65, was shot a short distance from his house. When his body was found, it was nearly eaten up by the hogs. A Mr. DeJarnett, aged 50, was shot to death near Keytesville. Mr. Shuckey, aged 65, was shot and killed at his home in Chariton county.

Among the property destroyed by fire were the houses of Captain Heryford, Martin Hurt, Duncan Lock, Mr. Plunkett, Jackson J. Mills (postmaster at Keytesville) and the tavern property at Old Chariton, belonging to the Moore estate. Kennedy's warehouse at Brunswick was burned to the ground, with its contents, including a large quantity of tobacco and other

produce, and furniture belonging to citizens preparing to leave the county in consequence of the continued outrages. Among the furniture destroyed were six valuable pianos. The warehouse and contents were estimated to be worth fully \$30,000, no part of which was permitted to be saved from the fury of the flames. The dwellings destroyed were among the most costly and valuable in the county. Not any of the above property was burned by bushwhackers or southern soldiers. On the contrary, the destruction of life and property, not named above as committed by bushwhackers, was done by militia in the federal service, from Putnam and Sullivan counties, as we are credibly informed by persons well acquainted with the fact. Doubtless other outrages have been committed against persons and property, of which we have no definite knowledge.

The effect of these atrocities, accompanied as they have been by numerous threats and demonstrations of violence, has been to cause innocent and unoffending persons, union men as well as southern, to flee from their homes, in order to save themselves from insult and injury, if not from assassination. We are assured that a reign of terror has existed for months in various parts of Chariton county. Much of the property burned in the warehouse at Brunswick belonged to parties endeavoring to leave the county. These terrorists were determined that no property should be taken away, at least not by the owners. The motive inducing this determination, may be inferred from the circumstance that large quantities of clothing, carpeting, beds and bedding, and every description of portable furniture, much of it of the finest and most costly quality, have been taken from dwellings abandoned by their wealthy owners, some of which has been since seen in the houses of persons residing in the northern counties of the state. That this property might safely be carried away by plunderers, will be readily understood, when we state, what we are assured is the fact, that fully two-thirds of the male population of Chariton have sought safety by abandoning nearly everything they possessed, and fleeing from the county.

Much of the destruction of life and property, and general disorder, which have so long existed in that section of Missouri, have been attributed to the inefficiency and downright dishonesty of those entrusted with the control of the military forces operating within the county. Whether this has been truly or erroneously done, it is not our province to affirm. We are glad, however, to learn that lately chances have been made in the command, and that there is a hope indulged by those directly interested that this will tend to restore quiet and order to that distracted county. The militia, stationed in Chariton county for some weeks past, is placed under the command of Capt. Benecke, a young, but active, experienced and efficient officer. Those who know him speak of him as a man and officer, in terms of highest commendation. Captain Buckhardt, who also has a company in the county, is likewise spoken of in praiseworthy terms. It is sincerely to be hoped that these officers may succeed in capturing all lawless persons in Chariton, or expelling them from the county, and bring about at least such a condition of affairs as shall permit the return of the law-abiding, and that with a reasonable assurance of safety.

Upon assuming command I issued the necessary orders, making disposition of the several companies of militia which were placed under my command by special order of Gen'l Fisk. Finding it necessary, in order to discipline the militia as well as the volunteer troops, and to prevent cause for complaint by citizens, based upon improper conduct by soldiers, I issued the following orders:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES, BRUNSWICK, Mo., Nov. 22, 1864. Special Order, No. 3.

The commanding officers of companies of all forces stationed in Chariton county, Missouri, will hereafter make the following reports to these headquarters:

I. A weekly report of all public property in their charge.
II. A weekly report of all individual horses in active service.

III. Tri-weekly report of strength of their companies to be forwarded by mail or special messenger.

IV. At no time will furloughs be granted to more than five men of a company; said furloughs, if extending over five days, must be approved at these headquarters.

V. No scouts will be sent out unless commanded by a commissioned officer or a trustworthy non-commissioned officer.

VI. The commanding officer of a scout will allow no citizen to accompany the scout, unless they act, and are absolutely necessary as guides.

VII. No English or enrolled men will be allowed to enter dwellings of private citizens, unless accompanied by a commissioned officer, or with written instructions of a commissioned officer; cases of high importance excepted.

VIII. The commanding officers of companies will hold an inspection of their company arms and quarters on every Wednesday and Sunday at 10 o'clock a. m.

LOUIS BENECKE, Capt. Co. I 49th Reg., Mo. Vol. Com. Post.

Also the following:
HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES, BRUNSWICK, Mo., Nov. 25, 1864. Special Order, No. 4.

1. Having been sent to this county to restore order and to establish the authority of the government, I deem it my duty to make known to the public generally that I shall extend all the protection in my power to all law-abiding citizens. In order to accomplish this more fully, I shall require the aid and assistance of every loyal and well disposed person within the limitation of my command.

It must by this time be manifest to everyone that the only way to restore peace and quiet in this state is for every individual, intending to make a permanent residence here, to give cordial and prompt support to the government. Protection on the part of the government, and support and maintenance on the part of citizens, are reciprocal duties imposed by our form of government.

This alone is the true solution of our present troubles, and while I shall so use the power entrusted to me as to extend the largest amount of protection to the citizens, I shall expect in return their hearty aid and support. Bushwhackers and other irregular forces of the so-called confederate states are known and recognized as the public enemies of mankind, and those who give aid and comfort to such are equally guilty with them, the severest penalties known to military law will be inflicted upon, and every honest man should feel it a special duty to hunt them out and have them brought to justice.

2. Upon hearing of any bands of bushwhackers in their neighborhood, or upon gaining information that any person is engaged in harboring or feeding them, the person or persons ascertaining the same will immediately report such information to these headquarters.

Nervous

"I was very nervous," writes Mrs. Mollie Mirse, of Carrsville, Ky., "had palpitation of the heart, and was irregular."

"On the advice of Mrs. Hattie Cain I took 2 bottles of Cardui and it did me more good than any medicine I ever took. I am 44 years old and the change has not left me, but I am lots better since taking Cardui."

Take CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

Cardui is advertised and sold by its loving friends. The lady who advised Mrs. Mirse to take Cardui, had herself been cured of serious female trouble, by Cardui, so she knew what Cardui would do.

If Cardui cured Mrs. Cain and Mrs. Mirse, it surely will cure you too.

Won't you try it? Please do.

The Daily St. Louis Republic

AND

CHARITON COURIER

In combination one year

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To subscribers who receive their mail either by star route or rural route carriers we offer the COURIER and the Rural Route REPUBLIC at special rate of \$2.55 a year.

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Is a complete 10-page daily newspaper with the news of the world fresh every morning—it is identical with the regular daily edition, excepting only in advertising matter. The telegraphic, sporting, market and financial pages are complete in every particular.

No subscriptions are accepted for a shorter term than one year. Make remittance to the COURIER. Take advantage of the offer at once; it can't be beat anywhere.

Wanted a Gay Life.

The St. Louis Republic of Tuesday contained the following item relative to a Howard county girl: Miss Wannie Knowles, 19 years old, of Roanoke, Mo., could not resist the lure of city lights, according to her mother, Mrs. Sallie Knowles, who has asked the St. Louis police to find her.

Miss Knowles, according to her mother, has come to St. Louis either because she wants to be near a former fiance, or because she hopes to have a livelier time here.

Her first search for such a time was made in Kansas City, where she went from her native town. Evidently she failed to find much excitement at home, for a week ago she turned her face toward St. Louis, Mrs. Knowles said.

The mother describes her daughter as a "pretty blonde, with violet blue eyes and about 5 feet, 5 inches in height."

Neal Hotel to Change Hands.

We learn from the Press-Spectator that the Neal hotel in Salisbury, which has been under the management of Mrs. Elgin and Mrs. Collins for several years past, and has gained prestige among the popular hostleries of this section, is to change hands February 1. Orris Head will at that time take charge of the hotel. Mr. Head is an accommodating and affable young man, and should have no trouble in maintaining the reputation of this favorite hostelry.

As to the future plans of Mr. and Mrs. Collins or Mrs. Elgin we are not advised, as at present they have made no definite decision. The new landlord of the Neal is a son of C. L. Head, the tobaccoist, who is operating extensively in tobacco in this county.

PRIESTS ARE GOOD FARMERS

Trappist Monks in Canada Have Made for Themselves a Reputation for Excellence.

Scattered throughout Canada are many curious religious communes, especially in the province of Quebec, but there is none more curious or interesting than the settlements of the Trappist monks.

This brotherhood has three settlements in the dominion—in Nova Scotia at Tracadie, in wilds of northern Quebec, near the Lake St. John district, and on the banks of the Ottawa river not far from Montreal. One of the most interesting of the monasteries is that near the village of Oka, on the Ottawa river.

The Trappist is a farmer as well as a priest, and the Oka farm of 800 acres is one of the best tilled in that part of Canada. All kinds of grain are grown, an excellent vegetable garden is maintained, and a large orchard and vineyard add picturesqueness to the rural scene. But the Trappist is a stock grower as well as an agriculturist. There are few finer thoroughbred stocks than the Percheron stallions and huge bulls kept there. The order owns at Oka several hundred cows, 300 sheep and 35 horses.

Adjoining the barn is the dairy, where a fancy cheese is produced that has a high reputation in the Montreal market, as have the claret and wines produced from the vineyards.—Busy Man's Magazine.

COULDN'T FIND THE MONKEYS

Auntie Was Rather Poor Kind of Guide for Her Little Visiting Nephew.

The young nephew had come in from the country after the harvest days were over to get a peek at some of the sights of the great city. Uncle was busy at the office, but the young wife took him out the first day for a visit to the zoological gardens.

"Well, Charlie," said the husband to the youngster on their return, "how did you like the monkeys? Were they funny?"

"Why, we didn't see any monkeys," was Charlie's mournful reply. "Aunt Marjorie couldn't find them anywhere."

"No, Henry," said the wife, "I couldn't, and we almost walked our legs off looking for them, too. But, Henry, there's one queer thing. Why does the director of the zoo have his house right in the middle of the menagerie?"

"I didn't know he had," was Henry's surprised reply.

"Well, there's a building with a sign on it, 'Primate's House.' Now, 'Primate' is French or Spanish or Italian or English or something that means 'director,' I'm sure."

Henry loved her too much to expose her ignorance either publicly or privately; but Charlie saw all the monkeys next day under his uncle's guidance.—The Sunday Magazine.

Non-alcoholic Sarsaparilla

If you think you need a tonic, ask your doctor. If you think you need something for your blood, ask your doctor. If you think you would like to try Ayer's non-alcoholic Sarsaparilla, ask your doctor. Consult him if he would recommend your using Ayer's Pills.

Ayer's

Ask your doctor to name some of the results of constipation. His long list will begin with sick-headache, biliousness, dyspepsia, thin blood, bad skin. Then ask him if he would recommend your using Ayer's Pills.